

Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## Its Been Half a Lifetime

**Mr Phillip Burret** *bids farewell to the School community.*

I could never have imagined I would live out half my life in one place, having moved numerous times before I joined The Doon School. Since I was from a military family, my parents moved every 2 years, so putting down roots and settling down at one place was strange for me.

After 11 years at Christian and Anglican schools in Delhi I came to Doon because I wanted the experience of working in a residential school. It was thanks to an ex-Dosco friend who was teaching at Doon at the time, that I was called for an interview. I took to the place like a fish to water. One thing led to another, and before I could come up to breathe, I was 60 years old.

My interview with the then HM consisted of a walk around the campus. I limped all the way due to a recently broken leg, and when the interview ended in the porch under his office, the HM asked, "When can you join, young man?" That was it. I came to Chandbagh with my wife, a 6 month old son, a black and white TV, two cane chairs and of course, the broken leg. I lived in two rooms without a verandah for almost 4 years-and I enjoyed every bit of it. I could not have given my children a better place to grow up in than Chandbagh, and for this I am eternally grateful to all who made this dream happen.

Of one thing I was very clear-I came here to live a life and not to make a living, even though doing the first one has also led to the other.

It is indeed fortunate that I have lived almost my entire life either in pristine army cantonments or in verdant Chandbagh—a place that is much more than a school for me; it has been a home.

When I joined School, those were the days of dark and dingy toilets, an E form and instances of serious bullying. We operated with a staff of only 35, with just 4 telephones and a mere 3 cars on the campus (one of which was permanently *jacked* up). There was a 3 foot-high boundary wall, and no system of gate passes. *Bajri* covered the entire path from Chakrata Road to the Main Gate. There was no MPH, and assemblies were held in what is now the library. There was nothing along the road by the *Panchayat Ghar* except for the support staff quarters. Trinity, The IB, Career Counselling, LAMDA and MUN were unheard of. Exchanges were few, and a guest speaker dropped in once a term.

In my time here, I am fortunate enough to have enjoyed so many responsibilities, starting with Road Maintenance and the AV Squad to carpentry and metal work, weather reporting, School soccer and cricket, The IAYP (earlier known as the Duke of Edinburgh Award) and *The Weekly*. Then there was Housemastership of Tata for a year, then of Jaipur for nine years and finally of Kashmir for two years. My years as a Housemaster must surely be the best time of my life, as I lived and grew with boys who I had to nurture and care for in the formative years of their lives. When I left Jaipur House, I enjoyed my role as Dean of Activities and Student Welfare, and finally as Deputy Head for 8 years.

I came to a school with no phones, TV, internet connection, tuck shop, cafeterias and where common rooms consisted of chairs and tables only. I came to a Dehradun that ended at *Astley Hall*, I came to a school where there were 4 outings a term, at a time when parents visited their sons only once a year- at Founders. Then, boys found more things to do with the masters- cycling, trekking, fishing, and watching 'The World This Week' with one's tutorial on Friday nights, or just sitting around and chatting were our little sources of entertainment. Little wonder then when those boys said they respected only two men-'their Housemasters and their fathers, in that order.' Hence we Housemasters had a huge responsibility to bear.

In these years I have enjoyed a camaraderie with masters, boys, old boys and parents that I will cherish for the rest of my days. I was well mentored by my seniors and learned to throw myself into the midterm treks, sports as well as the aesthetic activities of School. I enjoyed producing two Founders Plays and acting in others as well. I think I played in every staff hockey, soccer and cricket game against the boys and led the staff to victories in the Hexangular tournaments where 5 houses and the staff played a knockout tournament before the Inter-House matches.

(Contd. on page 3)

# Heavily Coated

The following boys have been awarded various blazers:  
IAYP Blazers  
Arunabh Uttkarsh, Amal Aggarwal, Yogesh Agarwal  
Scholars Blazer  
Anvay Grover  
Games Blazer  
Arunabh Uttkarsh

Congratulations!

# A Clean Slate

A team comprising Arjun Singh, Madhav Mall, Smayan Sahni and Chaitanya Kediya represented the School at the **20th Dr. Rev. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational Inter-School English Debates, 2015**. The School emerged victorious in the final round against the host school. In the course of the debates, the team won six **Best Speaker Awards**, four **2nd Best Speaker Awards** and two **3rd Best Speaker Awards**.

Congratulations!

# Hard Hitters

A team comprising Hrithik Shukla, Nehansh Saxena, Agastya Nath Khanna and Ansh Agarwal participated in the **Dehradun District Boxing Championship** held at the Parade Ground Boxing Ring, Dehradun from **8th to 10th May, 2015**. All members of the team stood 3rd in their respective categories. Agastya Khanna was declared the **Most-Promising Boxer** in the **Sub-Junior** category.

Kudos!

# Moves like Jagger

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Dance Competition** held on **May 8th, 2015**:  
**1st:** Oberoi House  
**2nd:** Tata House  
**3rd:** Kashmir House  
**4th:** Hyderabad House  
**5th:** Jaipur House

Well done!

# Scientific Fantasies

The result of the **B.G. Pitre Science Short Story Contest, 2015**, is as follows:  
**Juniors:**  
**1st:** Siddharth Gupta  
**2nd:** Raghav Grover  
**Seniors:**  
**1st:** Nehansh Saxena  
**2nd:** Sajal Bansal

Congratulations!


# UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*You guys cheered perfectly good.*  
**Rahil Chamola**, you said it.  
*How dare you are.*  
**AKM**, maintains discipline.  
*You are irritating so.*  
**Dilip Maurya**, so what?  
*I can give you a lot many things.*  
**JAS**, we don't need them.  
*Are you listening me?*  
**ARD**, redefines communication.  
*He'll write the cartoon.*  
**Arjun Singh**, the 'best' speaker.  
*Show me it!*  
**Amogh Tiwari**, a grammar textbook perhaps?  
*What's a scheming rhyme?*  
**Sudhanshu Agarwal**, poetic license?

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS


North Korea's Defence Minister has been executed for showing disloyalty to leader Kim Jong-Un. The Conservative party won the British elections, with David Cameron re-elected as Prime Minister. 43 people were killed in a terrorist attack on a bus carrying Ismailia Shia Muslims in Karachi. The recently ousted Intelligence Chief of Burundi has declared a coup against President Pierre Nkurunziza, who is currently on a foreign visit to Tanzania. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a visit to China.

### Dosco Doodle



### The Countdown

Kushagra Bansal



(Contd. from page 1)

I have been especially fortunate to have served with 5 spectacular Headmasters. And it is one of the great strengths of the school to have had as Head a person the school most needed for that particular period in its history. From Mr. Ramchandani, the thorough gentleman who offered me the job and brought me two light bulbs in the pouring rain because the electricity failed on my first night at school, to Mr. Shomie Das who believed in giving us the freedom to take risks and make mistakes, to Mr. John Mason, the disciplinarian who tightened up on old systems, to Mr. Kanti Bajpai the visionary and scholar who changed the physical and intellectual face of the school, to finally Mr. McLaughlin, who has steered the school into a different league altogether—my sincerest thanks to them all. In hindsight, what gave me immense satisfaction were not just the big things like my trek to Kauri Pass and the wonderful mid-terms in the early days (when roads did not reach far into the hills), nor the initial survey I was asked to do that led to the establishment of the IB Diploma in school in 2004, or even being acting Headmaster for 6 months. Rather it was those small things like rushing boys to the operation table for appendectomies late at night or looking for that D former from Martyn House who went missing after 'Toye', or even driving my House Captain home when his father had met with an accident or just those Jaipur House common rooms when we had to address what seemed then to be a lofty issue, but now seems so trivial. But most of all it has been my classroom work and my tutorials that have brought me the greatest pleasure. To the many students who have had to suffer my lessons and lectures, may I say a sincere thank you.

While I have had some of the best times of my life in Chandbagh, life has also dished out its share of tragedies for me and my family as well. It was only because of the enormous support from the Doon community—past and present, that I was able to keep my sanity.

Offers to leave Doon came trickling in, but it was always a difficult decision. Why would I ever want to leave such a place that has given me everything I looked for?

The school has changed for the better and is now, arguably, among the most respected educational institutions anywhere. I am so privileged to have been a small cog in this journey of transformation.

I have enjoyed and loved the school as much as I have loved and enjoyed working with the boys. I now leave this beautiful spot on earth to do other things which may not be teaching in class, but will certainly involve working with young people. It is the youth who I have always worked with and in whom I pin all my hope - because of the openness and honesty I see in them and the energy that drives them.

Good bye and thank you Chandbagh and all those who I have met along the way. Thank you boys, colleagues and Governors for touching my life and for making it such a fulfilling journey; I hope that in some ways I too have made a little difference.

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## In 'Holy' Matrimony...

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**Nehansh Saxena** *expresses his views on marital rape in India.*

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"Close the door when I leave!" he yelled as he exited; leaving the door resonating with the frustration he had built up over the occurrences the night before. She walked up submissively, rubbing her puffed eyes, with her head facing the floor with indignity. A tear-drop ran down her cheek in silence. Before anyone from outside had a glance of what had become of her, she shut the door. Her day generally started with such woeful mornings after her marriage. He had never loved her before; neither had she displayed any affection for him. Her parents and elder brother had virtually dragged her to this futile bondage; but of course, she was the one to comply. Women do not have a voice in the subject of marriage, do they? She was talked into it, with a prolonged, but irrational lecture that extended to half an hour, repetitively using the same clauses. "It is not safe for unmarried young ladies like you to stay all by yourselves?" "This girl is crossing her limits. Don't you read the newspapers? Are you not aware of the dangers that lurk around? We think you should get married!" A month later, a youthful happy-go-lucky college-going girl of just 18 found herself trapped.

She was married into a family of good repute who had its own business. She had never seen the groom's face until the day of marriage. She did not expect to be stripped off the little respect she had for herself. The dangers that she had never encountered had now gotten to her. They found their way into her in a way more demeaning than ever - rape was not a strange business for her anymore, it was routine. The devil behind the mask was the spouse himself, as he brazenly abused her each night. The gritty smile he displayed outside concealed even the smallest shred of evidence. Fine, she had amassed her emotion in the fresh days of their marital bond. However, his violent lust grew each day. The psychological distress that she had learned to suppress had now doubled itself towards her physical attributes. Sometimes the pain felt unbearable; she had not slept for nights. The wounds had gone numb with pain. Some of them had already turned into repugnant scars. An oxymoronic term- marital rape- is one of those sickening acts that are always buried underneath the superficiality we see around. It is camouflaged; behind the walls of humble households it remains unchecked.

I feel humiliated to repeat the Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code which explicitly blurts out that "forced sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is

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not rape." It blemishes the sole purpose of the equality of gender a female individual and a male individual are to hold in the sacrosanctity of marriage. The lawmakers are the ones who seem to be archaic in their mind. I am not blaming them; it is just that they have to set their principles straight. As I was reading through, I came across this particular statement by Sir Mathew Hale, a famous 17th Century barrister and lawyer who wrote "The husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by him upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent and contract, the wife hath given herself in kind unto the husband, whom she cannot retract." On comparing the statement made in the Section 375 with the latter, it straightforwardly points out how our nation has reached a standstill in terms of marital conflict or rape. We are all subject to our own tomfoolery and stupidity. Had this evil been eradicated long ago, would we have been raising our voice today? The extent of marital rape has stretched itself to such an extent that seventy-five percent of the cases go unreported. It constitutes twenty-five percent of rape in our country. Yet, we hesitate when the opportunity comes to criminalise it.

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## He For She

**The Doon School Weekly** interviewed Nistha Satyam, the Public Relations Officer of the United Nations Women organization, who recently visited the School.

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you please tell us a bit more about yourself and what made you stand up for gender equality in the first place?**

**Nistha Satyam (NST):** I work with UN Women, a UN entity that works for the empowerment of women. I've been there for the past one year. My role at the UN involves working with the private sector, the government and society and bringing them all together to work towards common goals. I think my decision to work for gender equality occurred over a lifetime. Gender discrimination was a part of my growing up, being mistreated in school and discriminated against in college. After I graduated I really wanted to pursue journalism, and I remember, in those days, a very prominent female journalist in Delhi was shot dead in Vasant Kunj at night. This was when I had just been offered a job as a journalist, but my father refused to let me join. That made me sit down and think- is being a girl the only reason I'm not going to be able to pursue my dream? Unfortunately, I didn't have the voice or the means to negotiate what I wanted, and that was a critical point for me. So, I think that equal access to resources and opportunities, equal pay for equal work and the right to voice out your concerns is critical for an equal world. That's when gender equality became my life's mission. Also, the small things that you see, that don't happen to you but the people around you- children being abused, women being beaten up, harassed, being spoken to rudely, and not allowed to pursue their dreams for reasons that don't matter made a difference to me. I think it's all these little scenes that bundle up at one point and make you dedicate your life to such a cause.

**DSW: India has recently been ranked the world's 4th most dangerous place for women. What do you think is the cause behind that?**

**NST:** Before I answer that: India is not the only country where safety is a problem. The problems that women face in any economy are universal. Women are unsafe across the globe. The degree to which you're unsafe matters, the laws and state measures that protect you differ, but India's not alone in this in any way. As far as ranking goes, if that's what data says, then that's what we have to accept. However, I wouldn't isolate India. The reason as to why any country is unsafe for women, not just India, is that we still operate in a very patriarchal world. Deeply ingrained notions of masculinity which lead to violence against women are a bane in societies across the globe.

**DSW: What do you think that we, as students can do to improve the situation of women in our society?**

**NST:** I think every person has a sphere of influence. As a student, your immediate sphere of influence is your class, your family and your friends. So let's say that every person is looking at an inner sphere of at least 10 people, and those ten people are looking at another set of ten people. So what we expect from you is that you should pass on and enforce the message of gender equality whenever you get a chance. And when you see a woman not getting equal rights, you should question that. As you grow up and move on to positions of power in your life, question the traditional notions of masculinity. Question things around you, change yourself, set new standards: these are the things you can do immediately.

**DSW: About 65% of India's population lives in the rural area, so how do you plan to reach onto these areas and help them tackle obstacles such as illiteracy, patriarchal, social customs and lack of development?**

**NST:** You are absolutely right, 65% of the India's population lives in the rural area, and we try to reach them too. The very core of UN's women mandate is to reach out to marginalized women and to ensure that there is a meaningful change in their lives. How do we plan to reach out? As you know we, even women partners, with a very robust living society operating in India. We do help in the capacity building of the NGOs that function. We do work on the influence policy so that they become more gender sensitive. So these are some steps which UN women take, particularly through the He for She Campaign. We are looking at it to taking it to the local panchayat level. We are looking at taking it to the local panchayat level, try to talk to the heads of the panchayats, the head of local governance and tell them that why is this the opportune time to start talking about something known as He for She. It does sound like some urban campaign but the appeal of it was universal, because the problem is universal and so we do plan to go to the local panchayat level and we do plan to join up with academic institutes and organizations working in two to three cities.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Residents of The Doon School would have noticed that a new species of tree, *Millettia Peguensis* has blossomed behind the pavilion. The photographs sent to me are of the first stage of flowering. In a week or ten days the cluster will be a slender drape of light mauve. This is an outstandingly beautiful tree and people going on the road connecting Lodhi Road to Khan Market in New Delhi slow their cars or stop to look at the avenue of this species in the third week of April. Hopefully, those looking at the pavilion from the CDH side of the Main Field and elsewhere would similarly appreciate its aesthetic value.

Sylviculture is a game of patience and those of us involved with the enhancement of the beauty of the School's ground have waited over five years and are gratified by the first results that have come this year. It has been well worth the wait.

This is just one of a few species added to the arboretum inherited by us from the Forest Research Institute (FRI) and the Skinner family. All of them should come into their first flowering in the next year or two.

However, there is also a disappointment. As a part of The Master Plan 2008-12 we had developed a scheme for the long stretch of area between Skinner's and Chakrata Road. Under the guidance of the Roshni Kandhari and the naturalist Pradip Kishen (Trees of Delhi) the boys had participated in collecting seed and other material to plant some of the rare trees native to Doon's forests. Deepak Nirula also deserves to be mentioned for his contribution. Some were flowering and some not.

If it had been executed, the School would have had the distinction of having a unique collection of local forest flora, surpassing even the FRI. After all, we had inherited a national treasure from this institute and it would be a fitting tribute to the late R.S. Troup (Silviculture of Indian Trees, later Chairman of Forestry at Oxford University and a Fellow of the Royal Society), who was the first forester in charge of Chand Bagh, about 1909-1915. He was instrumental in planting around 150 species in the grounds. Our addition would have enhanced this by about 30 species, many selected to flower in different seasons so that there would have been a year-round show of colour and blossoms.

For some reason this plan was not implemented after the Platinum Jubilee. Around that time both the School's administration and the composition of the APC changed and it seems the new authorities were not interested in enriching the School's environment. This is just a surmise but if there were some other insuperable obstacles, they should have been brought to the notice of the School- community, past and present. A great tragedy was the choice, instead, of silver oak for this area. This is a mundane, humdrum selection that would take away, rather than add to the value of our collection.

I am writing to you as I would like to place this issue before your readership in the hope that the plan will be revived and we will please, rather than depress, the many guardian angels of naturalists of the past who added a dimension to our faculty of appreciating nature.

Meanwhile, do look out for more exotic and native flora

that will manifest the enhanced value of our cache.

Yours etc,  
Rohit Handa  
Ex- 22J  
Former Chairman of the Architecture and Projects Committee

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for the refreshingly candid review of the teachers' performance at the end of the One Act Play Competition. The reviewer says in all honesty: "our teachers never fail to disappoint us". I hope he only meant that in reference to our stage appearances. Point taken. We shall be extra careful, if there is a next time! Keep up the honest reviewing!

Warmly,  
PKB

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## The Pink City

Sabir Singh

It was on the 17th of April that a group of boys, namely Kanav Gupta, Umang Garg, Tarang Garg, Yash Mittal, Archit Barthwal, Raghav Grover and myself travelled to Jaipur for an art festival. Escorted by Mr Alope T. Bhowmick and Mr Tapan Barui, the trip was one that will forever remain etched in our memories.

The festival, hosted by United Restorations, Jaipur, was named 'Cartist' (an art festival with automobiles as it's theme) and was held at the historic Rambagh Palace Hotel.

The major highlight of the event was the fleet of vintage cars that were on display - the Buick, Triumph, Mercedes, Chevrolet, and the Rolls Royce to name a few. One could not help but envy the proud owners of these beauties on wheels! With these exquisite automobiles at the heart of the festival, one of the things we had to do was to create and display works of art that were somehow connected to the theme. It was under the guidance of Mr Tapan Barui that some of us created a sculpture of a man with wheels for limbs from scrap material found all around the city. The remaining members of the group tried to capture on canvas the beauty of an antique green Jaguar that was on display. While we tried to capture the theme of the festival as best as we could, we were also engaged in learning from great artists such as Wajid Khan, Raghu Rai and Atul Sinha. We learned about Sculptures, the art of Photography and about Monoprints, and even till the very end our appetite for learning more about these diverse fields of art was far from being sated. Before we knew it we were spending our last night in the Pink City, surrounded by great pieces of art and preparing to depart early the next morning. The next morning we left the beautiful city of Jaipur to come back to our own place of beauty – Chandbagh. All in all the festival gave me an unparalleled exposure to different art forms and the desire to learn more and create even more. I look forward to attending many such festivals and enrich my soul by being surrounded by creativity and beauty.

# Shaking Consciousness

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**Arya Khannal** *writes on the recent earthquakes that took place in Nepal.*

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Our world is a very strange place. There is conflict at every turn. In the Middle East, the radical ISIS is killing thousands and destroying the rich heritage of the land. Conflict in the Ukraine alone has accounted for more than 5000 deaths. Yet, Mother Nature still finds ways to cause more destruction and terror than any force we can muster.

Natural disasters are an ugly part of our world. Tornadoes make us flee our homes and hurricanes destroy them. Fires burn us alive and avalanches send us to the freezing gates of death. Floods drown us and droughts leave us gasping for water. All of these are common forms of natural events that affect our world. Fortunately for us we can predict these. Meteorological patterns help us figure out when and where the next big event is going to happen. But what about the ones we cannot predict? These are the real killers and destroyers of societies. Earthquakes and tsunamis bring unprecedented death and destruction whenever they raise their heads.

Only recently, a massive earthquake struck Nepal. Two minutes were all that the earthquake needed to damage the region. A country, which till only a few days ago saw peace and prosperity has been reduced to mountains of rubble and desolate individuals. Corpses are still being dug out from under the rubble and the raging thunderstorms add more gloom and pain to the people. Unfortunately, it didn't end there for the people. After the initial quake, measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale; over a hundred aftershocks have been recorded out of which 13 were strong enough to cause more damage to the country. Officials have still not been able to assess the full extent of the damage. The death toll is constantly on the rise. Humanitarian aid is rushing in from all around the world. People are doing the best they can in the hope that the situation will improve in the coming days. The risk of aftershocks affecting the region is still high, and another major quake in the region is expected.

Being in the region at this point of time is very tough. Everyone is gripped with fear, not sure of what is going to happen next. The situation in the remote places is even worse off. With no access to supplies, people are braving far more than they can put up with, waiting for help. This help, however, does not seem to be coming soon. Landslides and cobbled terrain prevent access to remote areas, and air support is not yet fully operational. Until then the inhabitants will have to rely on themselves. It is also very tough for those whose loved ones were the victims of the earthquake. Knowing that the people you care about are in danger is not a very nice experience. To know that you are powerless to help your friends and family, to know that their fate is tied to the whims of nature is even worse.

In the aftermath of such destruction, one wonders as to what really earthquakes are and how do they wreak so much havoc. To understand this we must first understand earthquakes. To make it simple - let's put it like this: the surface of the earth is made up of a jigsaw puzzle of oceanic and continental plates. These plates are solid landmasses floating on the molten inner parts of the earth. The edges of these plates are known as faults. Faults are constantly ramming into each other, pulling and pushing other plates, sending them up and down and left and right. These movements in the earth's crust release tremendous amounts of energy. This energy is released in the form of seismic waves which make the surface of the earth vibrate. These vibrations are not the only force generated by a quake though. The collision of plates and the vibrations caused by them release the strain on the plates, caused by their movement, resulting in more and more energy to be dissipated from the crust onto the poor and helpless individuals on the surface.

However, the initial tremors are not the end; they are just the beginning. Things start to get worse. The displaced plates have a tendency to get back to their normal position - doing this will cause them to shift again, and this process causes violent aftershocks. These aftershocks are capable of causing as much damage as the first quake. More than the power, it is the sheer frequency with which they strike that makes these aftershocks so dangerous. Major fault slips such as the one in Nepal can lead to over a hundred aftershocks. It would be kind if it was to end here, but it does not. After the earthquake is over, along with its aftershocks, it displaces the land by a significant amount. This may lead the plate straining itself, or it straining others. Either way, it paves the way for another trembling rampage. Fortunately for us, there are exceptions.

The earthquake in Nepal has a certain positive aspect to it. 700 years ago a duo of destructive earthquakes happened along the Asian plate. These earthquakes are the major reason why the Asian plate has so much strain stored in it. The recent earthquake in Nepal has helped exploit the ruptured faults and chart a historic pattern. If the information is as true as it seems, then this can potentially change the way we predict earthquakes. Steps are being taken to properly understand this pattern. Hopefully, in the coming future, earthquakes won't pose as big a hazard as they do today.

A phoenix always rises from its ashes. The world collaborates whenever a country is in need of aid. Diplomatic ties are forgotten. The recent disaster has caused major nations to join hands and help out. The recent events that shook our planet may be a turning point in our world's history. The road from here is long. There is a lot that needs to be done. But we will get there. We are after all, unstoppable.

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# Inter-House Dance

**Angad Singh Trehan** *reports on the Inter-House Dance Competition.*

The Inter-House Music Competition, 2015, 'kicked' off last week with the Dance Category. With moves and attitudes enthralling the audience, we saw the culmination of practice and perfection of two months. Archit Bartwal, the School Dance Captain, and the faculty of the Music department had pulled out all the stops to set this event in motion and put it on its feet, literally! This year's dances were expected to be thematic and most expectations were met as the five houses succeeded in conveying their themes through creatively choreographed steps and suitable tracks.

Hyderabad House performed first, using their forte-Hip-Hop- to the fullest. With static mannequins and dynamic formations, the troupe put up a performance which not only mesmerized and entertained all, but also succeeded in effectively projecting their theme 'Transformation'. Sharat Kumar and Prabsharan Singh Mamik took the limelight and danced to the popular 'Uptown Funk' and 'I Can Transform Ya' with their neon apparel adding to the aesthetics.

Kashmir House followed, with their theme being 'The Evolution of Bollywood'. Choreographed by Nikunj Agarwal, the sequences made up an eclectic mix of songs with the golden 'oldie' 'Mera Joota Hai Japni' providing a recurring reference point to more recent hits like 'Muqabla...' and 'Tu Meri'. The high energy of the moves, exuberant steps and vivid costumes brought to life the razzmatazz and glitter of Bollywood and had the audience demanding more.

In contrast, Oberoi House chose a more solemn and poignant theme. Their dance was titled "Rekindle" and portrayed the lives of society's marginalized through the story of a lonely and unwanted boy and his journey of struggle and attempts at redemption. Led by Anvay Grover, the troupe danced to the hauntingly powerful melodies: 'Judaai', 'Kyun Mai Jaagoon', and the 'Jee Karda'. Imaginative lighting and excellent team coordination made for a highly professional and artistic performance.

Tata House the turbulent, through their dance, showed the various stages of life. Birth, the turbulent teens, the stressful 'middle' years and dotage were beautifully portrayed by the troupe. The usage of popular songs such as 'GDFR' and 'Trumpets' was cheered by the audience. Pranav Kothiwala, backed by the choreographer Kalpit Sharma led the troupe.

Last to perform was Jaipur House. Their dance- 'Modern Madness' – revolved around a man's first heart-break. The story of love, loss and ultimately, death is not easy to convey through dance, and it is to Jaipur House's credit that they brought out the complexities of their ideas without losing momentum. The use of the stage and lighting by Jaipur House was commendable. Sahir Chaudhary and Sambhav Agarwal's balletic movements and expressive gestures added to overall performance.

It was a keenly contested show, as the final marks clearly revealed, with Oberoi House being this year's dancing 'champions'. There were disappointments, but as dance is something which creates hope and expression, those were soon forgotten. As I stood amidst my companions celebrating, I was reminded of Havelock Ellis' words, "Dancing is the loftiest, the

most moving, the most beautiful of the arts, because it is not mere translation or abstraction from life; it is life itself."

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## Leading Innovation

**Ojas Kharabanda and Yash Dewan** *report on the recently concluded Young Entrepreneurs Conference.*

The School recently hosted the Third Young Entrepreneurs Conference which saw the participation from 10 different schools. This conference brought to the forefront budding leaders of the business world. The conference was highly educative and extremely practical in nature and involved three activities. The first activity was an interactive one and was titled 'Pitch Your Product'. The schools were given a logo and they were required to give it a brand name and also devise a catchy tagline for it. Once this was done the participants were asked to market their product by preparing either an advertisement or a skit. The Research based event was a highly interactive one that saw promising businessmen of the future. The delegates were asked to present a business plan for a hypothetical future business. The main aim of this activity was to test the business acumen of the delegates. The school recently hosted the third Young Entrepreneur Conference which was a success. The conference involved the participation of 10 different schools. This conference exposed the budding leaders of the business world to various aspects of managing a business. The conference was highly educative and extremely practical in nature. The conference involved three activities. The first activity was an interactive one and was titled 'Pitch Your Product'. The schools were given a logo and they were required to give it a brand name and also devise a catchy tagline for it. Once this was done the participants were asked to market their product by preparing either an advertisement or preparing a skit. The Research based event was a highly interactive one that saw promising businessmen of the future. The delegates were asked to present a business plan for a hypothetical future business. The main aim of this activity was to test the business acumen of the delegates and thus give them an opportunity to explore various aspects of starting a new business. The teams had to prepare a presentation on how they would tackle various obstacles on the road to establishing a business and how to make their business a success. The teams presented some novel ideas and created a great intellectual environment. The final activity was a mock session of a European Union committee and the delegates mainly discussed two issues. The topics that were debated upon were: The building of the Russian Turkish Pipeline and also whether Russia is a credible gas supplier in the future? All the arguments were highly persuasive and all schools put up a good show, and thus give them an

The conference was intense and intellectually stimulating. The conference, under the leadership of Parth Khanna and Tanmay Gupta was well organised

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and was a great success. The Doon School A team comprising Dhruv Kharabanda, Smayan Sahni, Devansh Aggarwal and Ishan Jhavar won the 'Pitch your Product' category and the winners at this conference for the year 2015 was Welham Boys School with the host schools' A-Team emerging close runners up.

# The Week Gone By

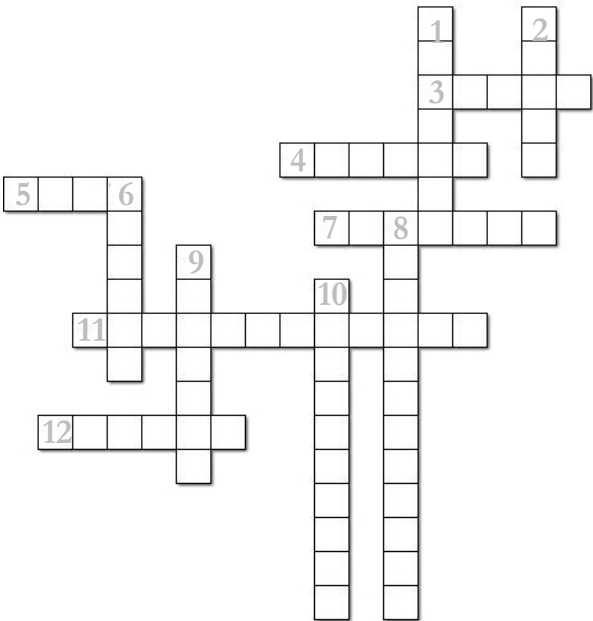
Nehansh Saxena

The past week saw the School Basketball team put up a spirited performance in the 25th edition of the Afzal Khan Basketball tournament. One could see the improvement in the players after their months of strenuous training and hard work, which is why it pinched one and all when, despite their best efforts, the team lost in the semi-finals. But where there are lows there are highs, especially for the Scs. None of them shied away from spending hours in the showers and the most expensive fragrances lingered around the campus. Even those who are notorious for late marks were seen sprinting towards the getaway vehicles parked outside the CDH, not wanting to waste even a minute of the precious time that had been allotted to Socials. Perhaps they had forgotten that they had pledged to pay a visit to their books, considering their most 'crucial' examinations are right around the corner.

The School is scampering hell-for-leather towards the finishing crease of what looks like the end of another term: The Inter-House Hockey Competition has reached its final stages and suspense abounds as to which house shall lift the Inter-House Hockey Cup. The sleepless nights of dance and drama have now been replaced with worse - those of drab and dust-covered course-books that are being opened after aeons. Of course, we shall have to surrender to a fatal inescapability - Trials. The S-formers are still living life, floating through house corridors with their newly acquired musical 'Macs'.

All-Outs have vanished from most of the rooms in the houses as the attack of mosquitoes continues. The calm drizzles on Tuesday and Wednesday provided some relief against the scorching May sun, even though the grounds shook beneath us once again, sending students flying out of their classes. The School seems to be grinding to a slow halt before everything completely quietens down with the onset of Trials. Friday saw all houses having their house-feasts, much like a ceremonial feeding of the lambs before they are led to the slaughterhouse. We certainly hope no more earthquakes entertain us in this final stretch of the term.

## Crossword



### Across

- 3. He is the current Editor-in-Chief of the weekly magazine 'Charlie Hebdo'.
- 4. He recently won the PFA award for the Footballer of the year.
- 5. He is the chairman of the Judges panel for Man Booker Prize 2015 Fiction.
- 7. His painting 'Women of Algeria' recently got auctioned for \$179 million.
- 11. He founded the famous toy company 'Lego'.
- 12. She was the first woman President of the UN General Assembly.

### Down

- 1. This African country recently held 'Goodbye Ebola' celebrations.
- 2. This video game franchise has sold the most copies since its release date.
- 6. The President of the European National Bank.
- 8. This party won the majority in the recent British Elections.
- 9. This teenage assassin led to the start of World War I.
- 10. This team bought the most expensive player at IPL Auction 2015.

10. Daredevils	12. Pandit
9. Princip	11. Christiansen
8. Conservative	7. Picasso
6. Draghi	5. Wood
2. Mario	4. Hazard
1. Liberia	3. Biard
Down	
Across	
Answers to This Week's Crossword:	

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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